BakeNeko Scanlations
SMOKER
SATOU INOUE
SCANNER: JOHYNNY
TRANSLATORS: TOSHIMUSH
PROOF-READER: NIHONTSU + PINKWINGSBLACK
CLEANER: MEGUMI_REI
TYPESETTER: TRIXY
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DUKE ELLINGTON
THE BEST OF DUKE ELLINGTON
THE CAT'S NAME WAS DUKE.
THE NAME THAT MY JAZZ LOVING FATHER GAVE HIM FIT HIM PERFECTLY.
I WAS AN INTRO-VERTED CHILD, SO I SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH HIM.
WHEN DUKE CAME TO THE HOUSE,
HE WAS 2 MONTHS OLD AND I WAS 8 YEARS OLD.
DUKE

THEY SAY THAT CATS WHO LIVE LONG BECOME NEKOMA-TAS*.
2 YEARS AGO, MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY.
THE LAST OF MY FAMILY.
AFTER THAT, AS IF CHASING AFTER MY DEAD PARENTS, YOU ALSO DIED.
WHEN THEY ARE STILL A CAT AND IF THEY WERE TREATED BADLY,
AFTER THEY TURN INTO A NEKOMATA, THEY TORMENT AND EAT THEIR OWNERS.
THEY COME TO KIDNAP THEM ON A BURNING CHARIOT*.
SCRATCH SCRATCH

TN NEKOMATA - A MONSTER CAT WITH TWO TAILS, THE JAPANESE MYTHS SAY THAT CATS THAT LIVE A LONG LIFE WILL BECOME A NEKOMATA, THE MORE BADLY IT HAS BEEN TREATED WHEN ALIVE, THE STRONGER ITS POWERS WHEN IT TRANSFORMS INTO A NEKOMATA

TN BURNING CHARIOT (KASHA) - CONNECTED WITH THE CAT DEMON KASHA, WHICH IS ALSO A CAT MONSTER/DEMON, BUT OF A HIGHER LEVEL MYTH SAYS THEY COME ON A BURNING CHARIOT TO STEAL THE CORPSES OF SINFUL HUMANS TO TAKE THEM TO HELL AN OLDER VERSION OF JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY SAYS THAT KASHA IS ONLY THE CHARIOT WITH WHICH A SINFUL PERSON IS DRAGGED DOWN TO HELL

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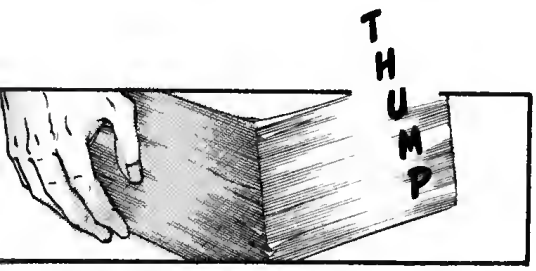
YURA-KUN! YURA-KUN!
I HAVE TO MOVE THIS, COME HELP ME!!
OK.

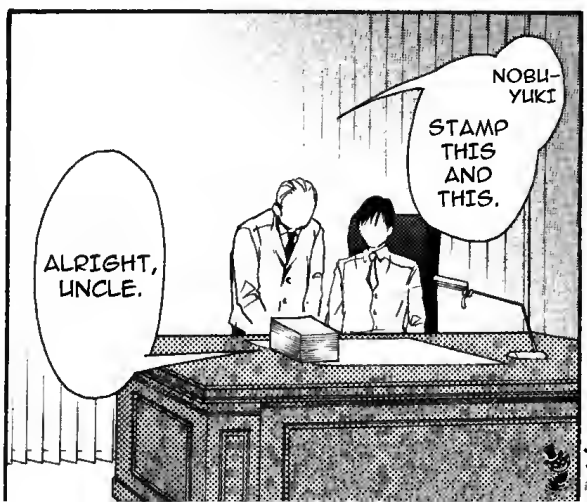
DUKE!!
—ERM...
WHAT IS IT?
.....
.....
.....

YURA-KUN!
DO YOU LIVE IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD?
I VOLUNTEER HERE. WE LOOK AFTER CATS UNTIL THEY FIND FOSTER HOMES.
THIS IS AN ANIMAL SHELTER.
I WANT A CAT, PLEASE.
...AH WAIT...
!
I'M COMING
IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST, COME WHENEVER.
BY THE WAY, WHAT TYPE OF CAT DO YOU LIKE?
TODAY, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IF YOU COME TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER, I THINK I CAN SET UP A MEETING AND EXPLAIN THINGS TO YOU.
WELL THEN ... COULD YOU PLEASE FILL OUT THIS CARD?

...I DON'T HAVE PREFER-ENCES...
WHAT IS THIS? SINCE BEFORE, THIS PERSON HASN'T MET MY GAZE AT ALL.
THOUGH WE DO HAVE A LOT OF CATS THAT ACT LIKE HIM.
I HOPE YOU FIND A CAT THAT YOU'LL LIKE.
AH!
HEY, THAT MAN...
THAT'S UTSUI-SAN.
HMM?
IS IT SOMEONE KIDO-SENSEI KNOWS?
I MET HIM 2 YEARS AGO, WHEN I JUST STARTED MY PRACTICE HERE.
HE BROUGHT AN OLD CAT WITH LONG HAIR TO ME TWO TIMES.
IT WAS CLEAR THAT BECAUSE OF THE AGE, IT WOULDN'T LIVE MUCH LONGER,
AND WHEN HE BROUGHT IT IN FOR THE SECOND TIME...

EUTHANI-ZATION?
YES.
HE SAID THAT HE, HIMSELF, WANTED TO DO IT AND HE DIDN'T BUDGE ON THE MATTER, SO I LET HIM.
IT WAS SCARY.
THERE WAS NO HESITATION. HIS EXPRES-SION DIDN'T CHANGE AT ALL.
...HMM ....
TODAY, I MET A PERSON NAMED YUKA.
HIS HAIR WAS SO LIGHT AND BEAUTI-FUL.
I THINK IF YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN A HUMAN, YOU WOULD HAVE LOOKED THE SAME.
BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO TALK TO HIM MUCH.
I WILL GO MEET HIM TOMORROW ALSO, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF GETTING A CAT.





Baka-Tsuki Scanlations
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STAMP
STAMP
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STAMP
KICHIJOUJI ANIMAL SHELTER
SLIDE

PLEASE GO INSIDE.
THE OTHER STAFF WILL SHOW YOU AROUND.
GOOD-DAY!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME YESTER-DAY, RIGHT?
.....
.....
NO...
——FOR EXAMPLE,
WHITE OR BLACK, STRIPPED OR SPOT-TED OR DAPPLED?
THEN, ALL OF IT.
YOU SAID THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PREFER-ENCES.
AREN'T THERE ANY WISHES YOU HAVE REGARDING THE PER-SONALITY OR THE AP-PEARANCE OF THE FUR?
UTSUI
THERE'S NOTHING SUSPI-CIOUS ABOUT THE INFORMA-TION HE SUPPLIED...

DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD... WHATEVER PERSONALITY...
HOW OLD, WHAT TYPE OF PERSONALITY?!
ANYTHING'S FINE.
A MALE OR A FEMALE?
AS I THOUGHT, HE REALLY IS STRANGE.
...DID YOU BRING ID?

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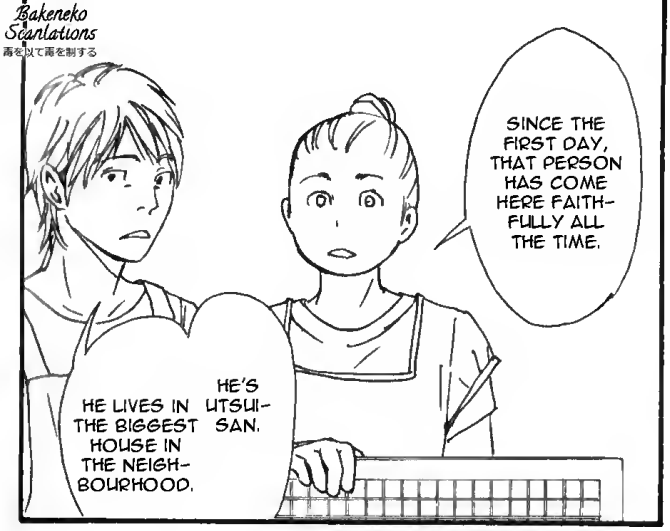
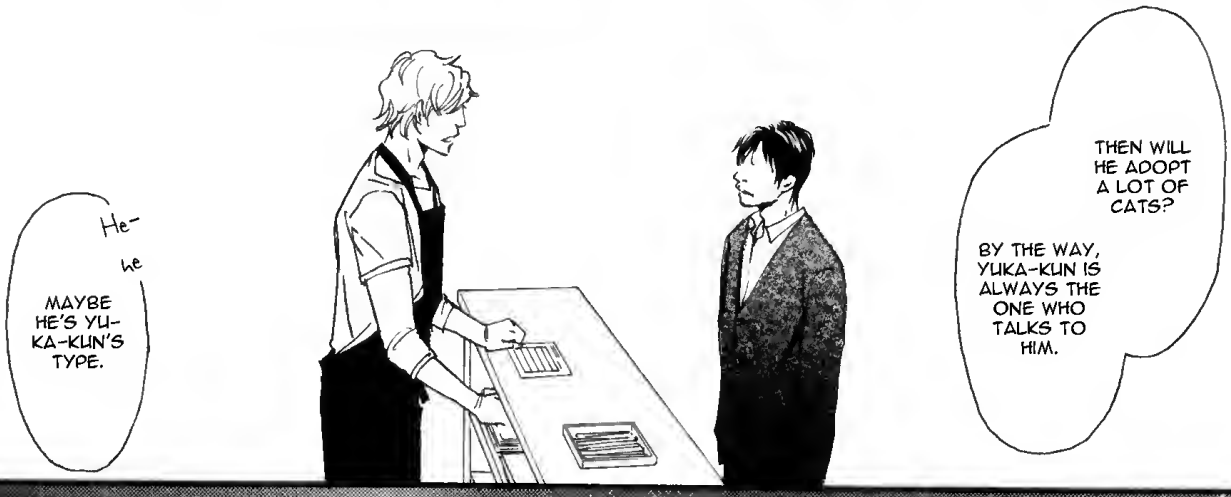
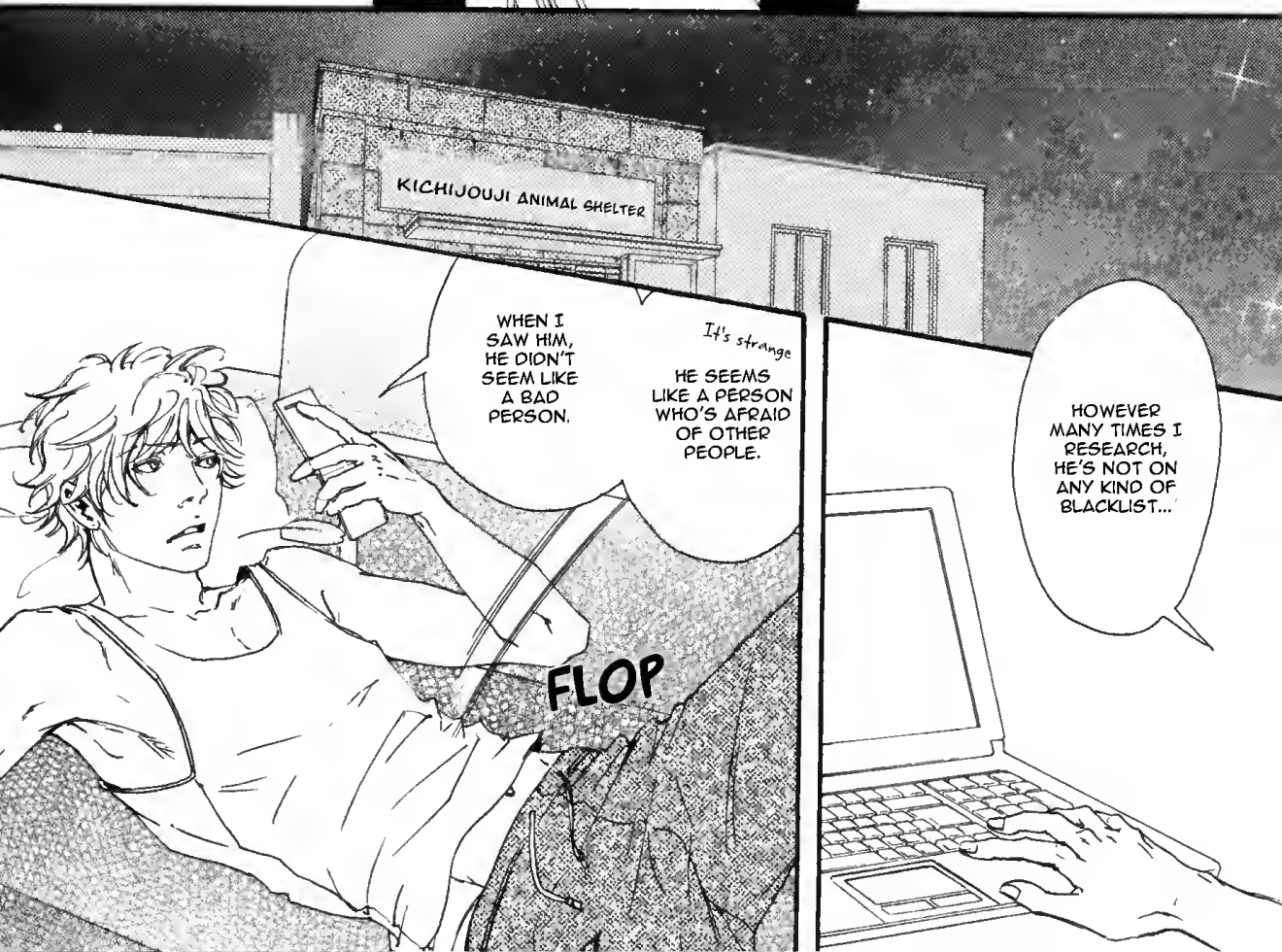

SINCE THE FIRST DAY, THAT PERSON HAS COME HERE FAITHFULLY ALL THE TIME.
HE'S UTSUI-SAN.
HE LIVES IN THE BIGGEST HOUSE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.




KICHIJOUJI ANIMAL SHELTER
WHEN I SAW HIM, HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD PERSON.
It's strange
HE SEEMS LIKE A PERSON WHO'S AFRAID OF OTHER PEOPLE.
FLOP
HOWEVER MANY TIMES I RESEARCH, HE'S NOT ON ANY KIND OF BLACKLIST...

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE COWARD WHO TOOK A YEAR TO COME OUT OF THE CAGE WITHOUT THE CAT BEING SCARED!
IS THE BOSS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING —?
THUD
WIGGLE
JUMP
OUCH!
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ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO WEASEL YOUR WAY IN, COR-LEONE.
AT LEAST RECENTLY, UTSUI-SAN ALSO
HAS STARTED TO TALK WHILE LOOK-ING AT ME.

"THERE WAS NO HESITATION. HIS EXPRESSION DIDN'T CHANGE AT ALL."
IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THE REASON WHY HE WANTS A CAT ISN'T CRUELTY.

SHELTER
EXCUSE ME.
TODAY, YUKA WENT OUT TO GET CATS...
UTSUI-SAN,
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHICH CAT YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE HOME FOR A ONE WEEK TRIAL?
NO WAY!!
WHEN?!
YOU GAVE A CAT TO UTSUI-SAN?!
IN THE AFTER-NOON.
WHICH CAT!?
THE THREE DAPPLED BROTH-ERS.
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
CARE-LESS.
WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT ...!!

RING RING RING
RING RING
YES?
I'M FROM KICHIJOUJI ANIMAL SHELTER.
PLEASE LET ME SEE THE CATS YOU TOOK HOME.
PANT
PANT
SUDDENLY
OPEN
GOOD EVENING!
THOSE CATS...
...GOOD EVE-NING...

THEY'RE IN THIS ROOM.
THE SITUA-TION IS SOME-WHAT...
——...COME INSIDE.
HMM?
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TURN
CLINK
.....
RUN
SHUT

THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH THE SAME MAIN COON'S PHOTOS...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. IT LOOKS LIKE A KING. —HMM?
THE SCRATCH MARKS ON THE PICTURE...
ARE ON THE NECK, NOSE, THE EARS.
IT SEEMS THEY APPEARED WHILE STROKING THE PICTURE.

SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU SO SUDDENLY AT NIGHT.
FURTHER-MORE, THIS ROOM...
HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S A CAT LOVERS ROOM.
BOW
RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY INCIDENTS...
FORGIVE ME!
WHAT ANIMAL CRUELTY INCI-DENTS?
—— IF YOU DON'T KNOW, IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE IT AT THAT.

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— ANY-THING'S FINE.
PLEASE CALL ME.
THIS IS MY NUMBER.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU OR YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE PROGRESS...
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
— THINKING THAT
HE'S CUTE, IS BAD.
WAKE UP! HE'S STRAIGHT!!
PROBABLY
HE SMILED ...
THAT WAS CUTE —
BUT I WANT TO GET CLOSER.
TO AT LEAST TOUCH THAT BODY.
SLOWLY, WITHOUT
SCARING THE TIMID HIM...
END